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TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

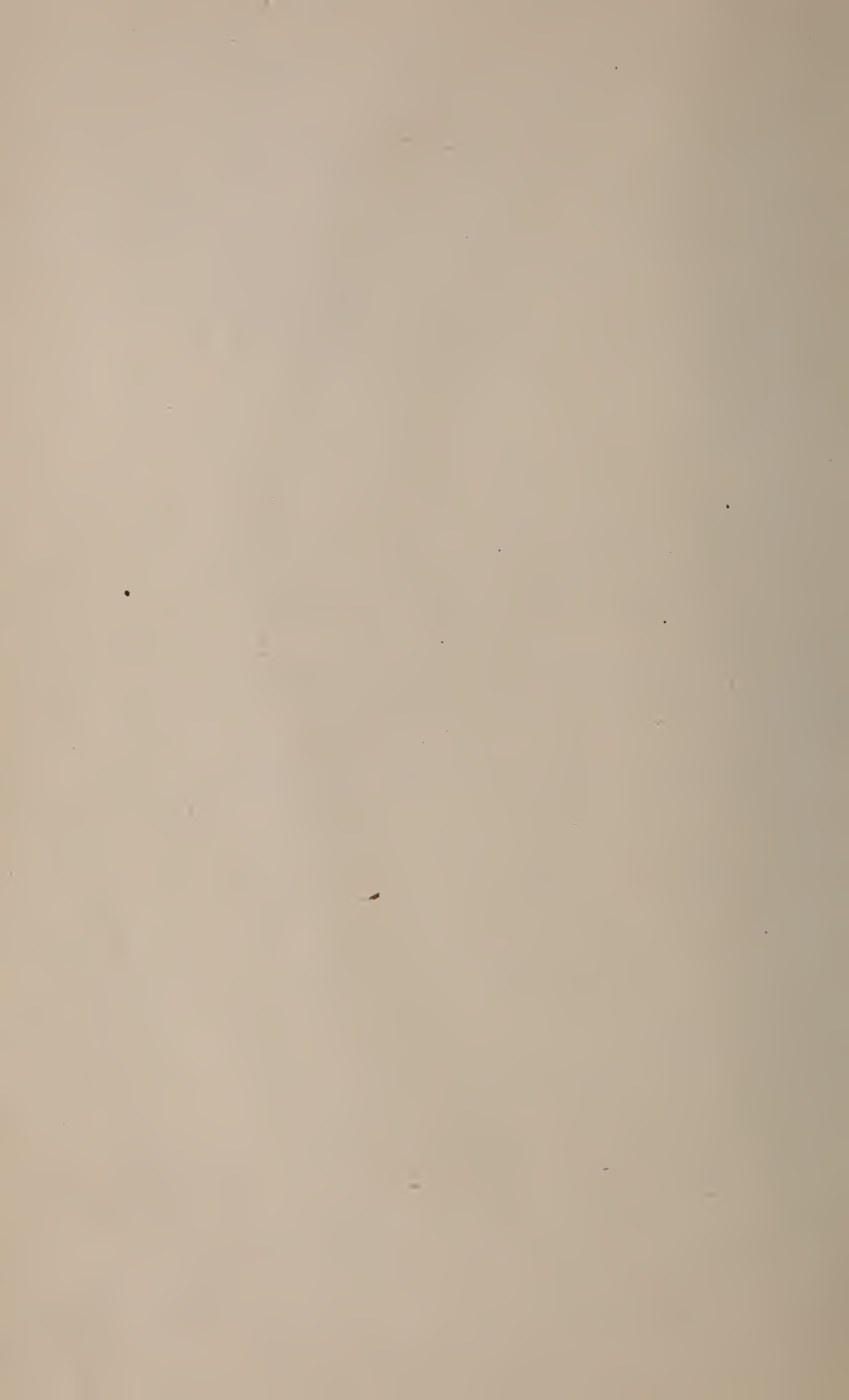
TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1880.

LYNN:

LEECH & LEWIS, Printers, Sherry's Block, Munroe Street,

1880.



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THE Committee desire, in presenting this Report, to congratulate the citizens upon the generally favorable condition of the schools. The present attendance and progress of pupils are reasons for encouragement, and though, in some respects, as a whole, our schools are far from their possible effectiveness, we feel a degree of satisfaction that we have a fair record for the past year.

The work of the several schools is now progressing smoothly. A few jars have been felt and heard, but it will be remembered that pupils, teachers, Committee and parents have a deal of human nature in them, and that occasional friction is unavoidable. Sometimes a little noise unduly excites some one, and it might appear that the sky was falling were it not that a little investigation usually dissipates the cause. "Let patience have her perfect work."

CHANGES, ETC.

Two of our teachers, Misses Palmer and Landen, declined a re-election to their former positions at the close of the last school year. This necessitated a rearrangement for the present year which was effected as follows;

First Grammar School, Miss Abby M. Mott.

Second Grammar School, Miss Kate Commerford.

Beach Intermediate School, Miss Alva Goudey.

These transfers are in accordance with the common rule of civil service, viz :—promotion in regular order.

The vacancy created in the Beach Primary by this ar-

rangement was filled by the election of Miss Martha E. Grey, of Canton; and the Farms School by Miss Frances L. Stanley, of Swampscott.

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Agreeably to the petition of the citizens of that vicinity, the Committee decided to re-open this school, which had been closed from want of a sufficient number of pupils, some three years since. Accordingly, Miss Margaret B. Wardwell was elected to the charge of the school, which was opened September 29th, with sixteen pupils. The constant attendance and success of this school is a gratification to the Committee, and we feel amply justified in the belief that the citizens of that section of the town appreciate the advantages of the school, and will endeavor to maintain it. Being a "mixed school"—primary and intermediate combined—the amount of labor devolving upon the teacher is large, considering the number of pupils. Nevertheless, we find Miss Wardwell ahead of her work, and in progress made and order maintained this school will take rank with the best. Attention is invited to the system of teaching reading and geography by Miss Wardwell.

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This also is a mixed school with an attendance nearly twice as large as the one last mentioned. Miss Stanley has proven herself quite capable, and, we believe, generally acceptable to her patrons. The amount of work accomplished by this school will, we think, be very satisfactory to the public and the Committee. Irregular attendance has hindered the progress of a few.

The long term of service of Miss Palmer is worthy of honorable mention, and the Committee feel that for the faithful and conscientious labor performed the community is under lasting obligations to her. Miss Landen also, who accepted a call to another State, left the service of the town much to the regret of the Committee.

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No special changes have occurred in these schools during the past year. Whatever of praise or blame has been justly bestowed upon their administration for the previous year or two, may perhaps with equal propriety apply at this time. The Primary pupils under the instruction of Miss Thing, seem to be doing themselves credit, with possibly a few exceptions. The introduction, by the Committee, of monthly juvenile reading, seems to create new interest among the pupils in this as well as other primaries. This feature of furnishing fresh reading matter every month has proved a decided success, and the Committee contemplate the extending of the plan to some of the other schools.

Mrs. Larkin's reputation as teacher of the Intermediate is well sustained, and her pupils generally leave her hands well prepared for the next class. We sometimes observe here, and elsewhere too, a tendency to be too "bookish." A proof of scholarship is not to have command of the language of the text-book, but to be master of the subject.

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THE FIRST PRIMARY.

The First Primary, in charge of Miss Charlotte F. Mott, maintains its high reputation, and has been well filled during the past year. Miss Mott's exceptional excellence as a primary teacher, and her long experience in this school, constitute her a valuable member of our community. The influence for good exerted by a faithful teacher can hardly be estimated, and the period during which our children are in the primary schools is that of easiest and most lasting impressions. Much, therefore, of their future character is in the hands of the instructors of the little ones.

THE HIGH AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The Committee at the outset confess to an unsatisfactory feeling as to the condition of the higher grades of our schools. There are many exceptions, but upon the part of a large number of parents and their children, if we are

to judge by acts, there exists an indifference, if not an opposition, to the advanced studies, which makes it difficult to bring the schools up to a high standard. We have continually to contend with a voluntary absenteeism, which renders the teacher's labor more arduous, while the absentee and his classmates both suffer loss. We are satisfied that numerous frivolous excuses are devised by pupils, or granted by thoughtless parents, not realizing the damage to themselves and their classmates. If such parents valued as they ought the school privileges which are open to their children, we think they would hesitate longer before asking to "have Johnny excused this afternoon to split wood," or "please excuse Mary's absence yesterday; I went out to spend the day, and she had to attend the younger children." Quite often we learn of boys being taken out of school for days or weeks to earn a few dollars by baiting trawls or going into a shoe shop during a busy season, and thereby losing their class standing for the term or year. We presume this is not done except in cases that may seem to be necessary, but we urge that it should be a very pressing emergency that would justify such a course. The dollars may be earned and soon spent, but the school training will be a source of power at the command of its possessor in his whole after life. We cannot afford to discount the future of our boys and girls by permitting such a ruinous practice.

And this brings us to remark a kindred difficulty; the early withdrawal or "dropping out" of school before the student has become competent to take a position in life above that of a common laborer. The indifference to the value of education, the need of "every one earning something," or the desire of the pupil to escape school restraint, are often the only excuse for breaking off a course of study, which, if pursued to completion, would be the means of making the young man or woman vastly more useful, ca-

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It would be an erroneous conclusion to suppose from the foregoing that these schools are not making their usual progress, and the Committee feel that they may truthfully say that the work done will compare favorably with that of any recent year. But we desire the aid of those directly interested to raise the standard, and make them more effective. We expect this year to graduate three students from the High School, with the prospect of a larger class next year. We trust it will be the ambition of many to master the course of study in this school, and let our citizens give it the preference, when possible, to continue the educating of their sons and daughters after passing through the Grammar Schools. To state that the High and Grammar Schools are in charge of competent instructors is almost a superfluity. Their work speaks for them.

The instruction imparted by Mr. Bailey and Miss Mott, in their joint administration of the affairs of the High and First Grammar Schools, we believe to be quite as thorough as is possible under existing circumstances. We trust that the parents and friends of the students in these departments, and also Miss Commerford's, will avail themselves of their right and privilege to visit the schools and acquaint themselves with the workings of our educational system. A double benefit arises from such visiting; the teachers and pupils are stimulated, and the visitor is interested and brought into a better understanding of the actual school life.

The Second Grammar School, now in charge of Miss Commerford, is in very fine working order, and good results may be expected at the end of the year.

We call attention to the overcrowded condition of this school, necessitating the removal of the more advanced pupils to the upper school in order to make room. This is a positive loss to the school, and calls for increased accommodations. Since all the pupils promoted from the Beach, Pine Street, Essex Street and Farms Schools enter this room, it is naturally the largest school in the town; and since many never go beyond the Second Grammar course, it seems necessary to make the accommodations ample, that the student may make all possible progress while he remains in the school. The Committee is hardly prepared to make a recommendation as to the nature of the enlargement, but suggest that it could properly be accomplished by transferring the Primary School to another place, and removing the partition between the two rooms. The accommodation thus provided would soon be filled by the yearly increase of this department. The retaining of the Primary School in the same building is in itself of questionable propriety, and for its own good should be separated from the advanced schools.

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The Committee do not anticipate a very heavy outlay for repairs during the coming year; but no doubt a considerable amount of paint will be needed to keep the buildings from decay. Some grading of yards and renovation of outbuildings is needed, and will be attended to in due season.

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CHAS. A. MORRIS, }
CHAS. P. CURTIS, } *Committee.*
FRANK O. ELLIS, }

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 1879.

SCHOOL.	TEACHER.	WINTER TERM		SPRING TERM		FALL TERM		Average Age.
		JAN. MAR.	Average No. in attend.	APRIL. JUNE.	Average No. in attend.	SEPT. DEC.	Average No. in Attend.	
FIRST PRIMARY	Miss MOTT.	44	38	53	37.5	53	40	7.
PINE STREET PRIMARY	Miss THING	38	31	43	37	43	31	7.4
BEACH PRIMARY	Miss GREY	44	43	53	48	48	43	6.3
FARMS'	Miss STANLEY	29	24	33	27	28	25	8.
ESSEX STREET	Miss WARDWELL	39	35	39	32	17	17	8.
PINE STREET INTERMEDIATE	Mrs. LARKIN	40	38	38	37	37	28	10.
BEACH INTERMEDIATE	Miss GOUDY	48	43	49	44.8	45	36	10.5
SECOND GRAMMAR	Miss COMMERFORD	49	43.1	45	34	57	51	11.5
FIRST GRAMMAR	Miss A. M. MOTT	19	12.9	9	5.8	52	40.2	13.2
HIGH	Mr. BAILEY					17	13.3	15.8

REGULATIONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SECTION 1. The morning session shall begin at nine, and end at twelve o'clock. The afternoon session shall begin at half-past one, and end at four o'clock.

SEC. 2. Teachers must be at their school-rooms fifteen minutes, and in stormy weather, twenty minutes before the school time.

SEC. 3. Teachers must not dismiss their schools before the specified time, nor change the school hours, except by permission of the Committee.

SEC. 4. The Principal of the High School shall have power of discipline over all pupils in the building, outside of the school rooms, or in the same, if necessary.

SEC. 5. There shall be a recess of not less than ten, nor more than fifteen minutes, each half-day, in all the schools; and for the Primary Schools there may be an extra recess each half-day.

SEC. 6. The morning exercises shall commence with reading from the Bible by the teacher, and it is recommended that the reading be followed by some devotional service.

SEC. 7. A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be brought by each pupil for tardiness or dismissal before the close of school hours; and tardiness beyond five minutes shall be considered a violation of school discipline, and treated accordingly.

SEC. 8. When a pupil is absent from school more than five consecutive school days, his name shall be stricken from the roll of the school. If the teacher has satisfactory evidence that the absence was caused by sickness, the pupil may return to the school without a written permit from the Committee.

SEC. 9. If a pupil is frequently or habitually absent from his recitations, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report the same to the Committee. Parents or guardians desiring to have pupils

temporarily or permanently excused from attendance, or any prescribed study, must apply in person to the Committee.

SEC. 10. If, in the opinion of the teacher, any pupil is unable to maintain a good standing in the class, such pupil may (with approval of the Committee) be dropped to a lower class.

SEC. 11. Teachers shall exercise a kind and parental discipline, and they are expected to be models of patience and politeness to their pupils. Whenever there is direct or violent opposition to the authority of the teacher, such as to injure the discipline of the school, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report such cases to the Committee, who alone shall have power to expel from the school, or to re-admit when evidence is given of repentance and amendment. If a pupil is suspended from school under any of these regulations, his name shall be stricken from the roll.

SEC. 12. Children of the age of five years, who have been vaccinated, shall be admitted to the schools at the commencement of the Fall and Spring terms, after obtaining a permit from some member of the Committee.

SEC. 13. No pupil having been a member of one school, shall be admitted to another without previous consent of the Committee.

SEC. 14. Each pupil must come to school neat in person and dress, and in case of neglect in this respect the teacher must send him home to be properly prepared for school.

SEC. 15. No studies shall be pursued in any of the schools, nor any text books used or introduced, except those authorized by the Committee. Pupils will not be permitted to bring other books or reading matter to the school rooms.

SEC. 16. No subscription or advertisement will be allowed in any school without the consent of the Committee.

SEC. 17. Any damage to the school buildings, grounds or premises must be paid for by the parents or guardians of the pupils who have caused it. The General Statutes of Massachusetts provide that all such willful and wanton damage may be punished "by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding one year."

SEC. 18. The teachers shall be allowed three half-days during each school year, in which to visit other schools, by first arrang-

ing for the same with the Committee. The usual public holidays which may occur during the school terms will be allowed by the Committee.

SEC. 19. No gift or donation to a teacher, by pupils or parents, will be permitted.

SEC. 20. When teachers are unable to attend their schools from sickness or other cause, they are required to inform the Committee at the earliest moment, that a substitute may be provided. Teachers may employ their own substitutes, providing they are acceptable to the Committee; but their compensation shall be determined by the Committee.

SEC. 21. The teachers of the High, Grammar and Intermediate Schools shall require written examinations from their pupils, in their principal studies once a month. These papers are to be kept for the use of the School Committee; and a record of the percentages of these examinations shall be kept by the teachers, and shall be the basis for promotion from class to class, or from school to school.

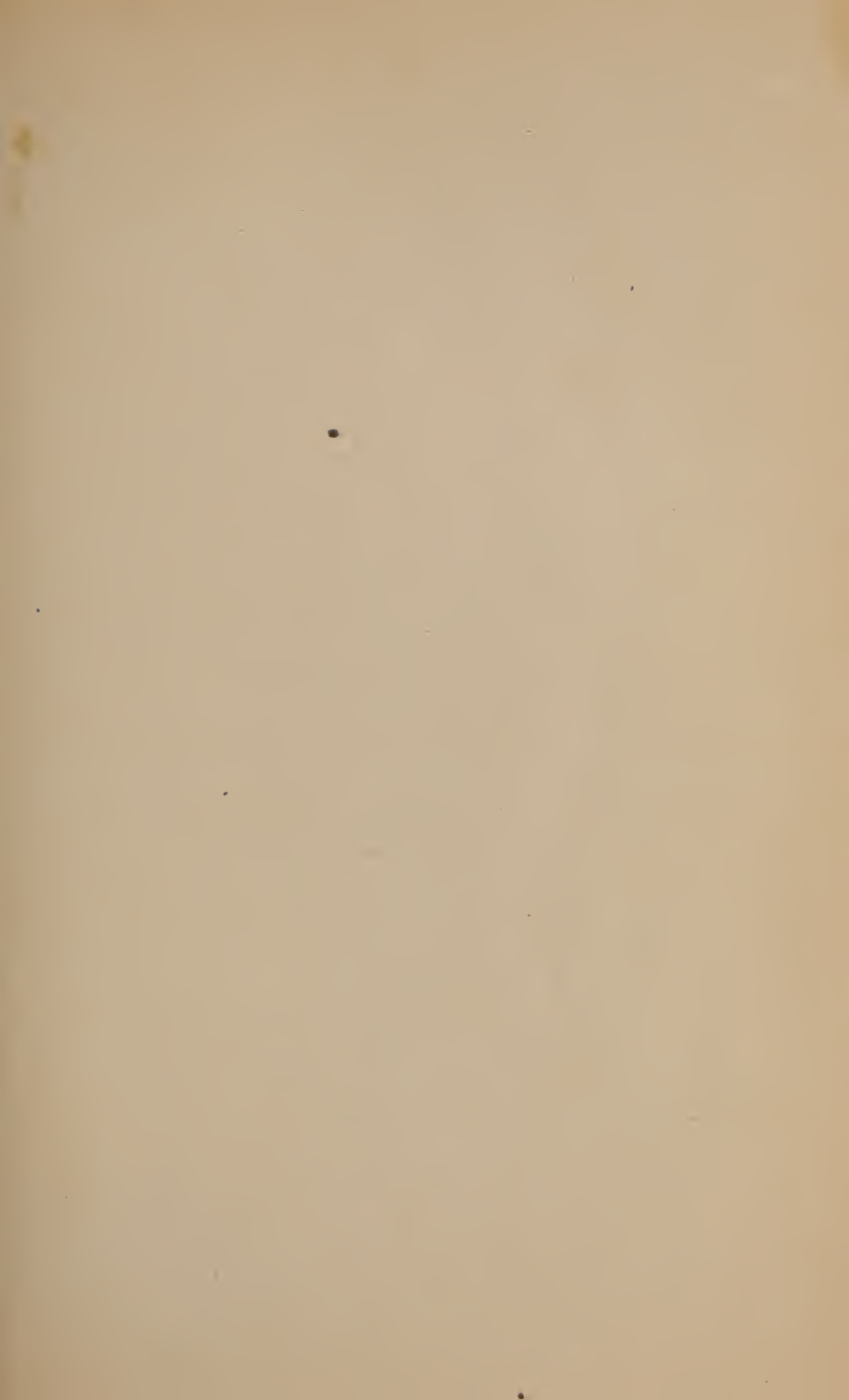
SEC. 22. The statute in regard to the faithful keeping of the Register shall be observed, and the Register kept at the school room for the inspection of the Committee.

SEC. 23. The annual public examinations shall take place the last week in June.

Approved by the Committee, February, 1879.

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Swampscott.
Reports.

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Sec. 3. Teachers must not dismiss their schools before the specified time, nor change the school hours, except by permission of the Committee.

Sec. 4. The Principal of the High School shall have power of discipline over all pupils in the building, outside of the school rooms, or in the same, if necessary.

Sec. 5. There shall be a recess of not less than ten, nor more than fifteen minutes, each half-day, in all the schools; and for the Primary Schools there may be an extra recess each half-day.

Sec. 6. The morning exercises shall commence with reading from the Bible by the teacher, and it is recommended that the reading be followed by some devotional service.

Sec. 7. A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be brought by each pupil for tardiness or dismissal before the close of school hours; and tardiness beyond five minutes shall be considered a violation of school discipline, and treated accordingly.

Sec. 8. When a pupil is absent from school more than five consecutive school days, his name shall be stricken from the roll of the school. If the teacher has satisfactory evidence that the absence was caused by sickness, the pupil may return to the school without a written permit from the Committee.

Sec. 9. If a pupil is frequently or habitually absent from his recitations, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report the same to the Committee. Parents or guardians desiring to have pupils

temporarily or permanently excused from attendance, or any prescribed study, must apply in person to the Committee.

Sec. 10. If, in the opinion of the teacher, any pupil is unable to maintain a good standing in the class, such pupil may (with approval of the Committee) be dropped to a lower class.

Sec. 11. Teachers shall exercise a kind and parental discipline, and they are expected to be models of patience and politeness to their pupils. Whenever there is direct or violent opposition to the authority of the teacher, such as to injure the discipline of the school, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report such cases to the Committee, who alone shall have power to expel from the school, or to re-admit when evidence is given of repentance and amendment. If a pupil is suspended from school under any of these regulations, his name shall be stricken from the roll.

Sec. 12. Children of the age of five years, who have been vaccinated, shall be admitted to the schools at the commencement of the Fall and Spring terms, after obtaining a permit from some member of the Committee.

Sec. 13. No pupil having been a member of one school, shall be admitted to another without previous consent of the Committee.

Sec. 14. Each pupil must come to school neat in person and dress, and in case of neglect in this respect the teacher must send him home to be properly prepared for

school.

Sec. 15. No studies shall be pursued in any of the schools, nor any text books used or introduced, except those authorized by the Committee. Pupils will not be permitted to bring other books or reading matter to the school rooms.

Sec. 16. No subscription or advertisement will be allowed in any school without the consent of the Committee.

Sec. 17. Any damage to the school buildings, grounds or premises must be paid for by the parents or guardians of the pupils who have caused it. The General Statutes of Massachusetts provide that all such willful and wanton damage may be punished "by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding one year."

Sec. 18. The teachers shall be allowed three half-days during each school year, in which to visit other schools, by first arrang-

ing for the same with the Committee. The usual public holidays which may occur during the school terms will be allowed by the Committee.

Sec. 19. No gift or donation to a teacher, by pupils or parents, will be permitted.

Sec. 20. When teachers are unable to attend their schools from sickness or other cause, they are required to inform the Committee at the earliest moment, that a substitute may be provided. Teachers may employ their own substitutes, providing they are acceptable to the Committee; but their compensation shall be determined by the Committee.

Sec. 21. The teachers of the High, Grammar and Intermediate Schools shall require written examinations from their pupils, in their principal studies once a month. These papers are to be kept for the use of the School Committee; and a record of the percentages of these examinations shall be kept by the teachers, and shall be the basis for promotion from class to class, or from school to school.

Sec. 22. The statute in regard to the faithful keeping of the Register shall be observed, and the Register kept at the school room for the inspection of the Committee.

Sec. 23. The annual public examinations shall take place the last week in June.

Approved by the Committee,
February, 1879.

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